

that Macedonia changed its flag and constitution to allay Greece's fears, today the Hellenic Republic continues to object to countries and international institutions recognizing the Republic of Macedonia by its constitutional name.

Without going into great detail on this subject, it is important to note that the Macedonians do not claim exclusivity over the word "Macedonia" and do not in fact object to Greece using it in any way it sees fit.

There are now 118 countries around the world recognizing the Republic of Macedonia by its rightful and constitutional name, including Russia, China and, I am proud to say, the United States of America. Just last month, Canada became the latest country to recognize the Republic of Macedonia. We did the right thing when we recognized the Republic of Macedonia in November 2004, and I am grateful for the President's leadership in righting a historic wrong.

This past summer, the now former Greek Ambassador to Macedonia was sacked by her own government for admitting that Greece should agree to a double-name formula, something the Macedonians have been arguing for since Greece first raised objections.

The relationship between Macedonian and Greek citizens could not be stronger. Greek businessmen conduct a large amount of business in Macedonia and have no problem with the name. In September, the Republic of Macedonia waived the requirement for Greeks to bring their passports when they come to visit Macedonia. Today, Greeks simply need an identity card. Macedonians in turn spend much of their vacation time in Greece during the summer months. The two countries cooperate on many other issues and enjoy good relations.

It is time for our Greek friends to allow the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia to enjoy their sovereign right to determine the name of their own country. It is time for Greece to drop its objections in the political arena, and to leave to the historians debates about Alexander the Great and the ancient Macedonians.

We live in the here and the now, and it is time to move forward. Our Greek friends enjoy pointing out their contributions to modern-day democracy and for that we thank them. Let them now contribute in their longstanding tradition of supporting democratic values by allowing the people of the Republic of Macedonia to call themselves by what they have always called themselves and by dropping their objections to a country that only desires friendship and has proven itself as a great friend and ally.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO HONOR THE 50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ALTHEA GIBSON BECOMING THE FIRST PERSON OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ANCESTRY TO WIN THE U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP AND WIMBLEDON

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to honor the 50th anniversary of Ms. Althea Gibson becoming the first African American to win the

U.S. Championship and Wimbledon. Her accomplishments signified a change in our Nation's climate in which racial discrimination was challenged on the tennis court and in the Supreme Court. The 50th anniversary of Althea Gibson's victory at the U.S. Championship and Wimbledon is worthy of congressional recognition, and I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating an extraordinary woman, and an extraordinary chapter in U.S. history.

The eldest daughter of sharecroppers who moved from South Carolina to Harlem during the Depression, Althea Gibson was born on August 25, 1927 in Silver, South Carolina. She had one primary desire: to be somebody. Thirty years later, Queen Elizabeth II presented her with the Championship trophy at Wimbledon, and Vice President Richard Nixon presented Althea Gibson with the United States Championship trophy at Forest Hills. By the end of her career, she won nearly 100 awards for tennis, and defeated men and women on nearly every continent in a sport that was historically restricted from people of her race and class. Althea Gibson was accurate when she declared that she had come "a long way from being forced to sit in the colored section of the bus." In an era of gender and racial discrimination, this African American woman was an international celebrity and a symbol of excellence and determination in the early years of the Civil Rights Movement.

Madam Speaker, Althea Gibson defied prejudiced conceptions of female and African American athletes from the time she played racket ball in the streets of Harlem until the time she competed in the world's most prestigious competitions. Her undeniable talent not only moved people across lines of race and class to support Gibson in her relentless desire to succeed, but also moved people to change the rules that maintained systems of inequality. In 1949, she attended my alma mater, Florida A&M University, on a full athletic scholarship due to the guidance and support of a New York doctor and his wife. Gibson received what the vast majority of African American women could not: an education. As white and black high profile athletes endorsed Gibson, people began to question if integration was an inevitable occurrence that would benefit tennis as it had benefited basketball, football, baseball. On August 28, 1950, the face and rules of tennis changed, and Althea Gibson became the first African American to compete at the National Open.

Madam Speaker, Althea Gibson's great triumphs did not come without great peril and adversity. Although she was hailed as the Queen of Tennis, racial prejudice excluded her from lodging in the hotels that surrounded the arenas where she competed and defended her crown. Refusing to let prejudice, poverty, or consistent threats against her life compromise her drive to succeed, Gibson fought prejudice when she won on tennis courts that were previously segregated. An actress, musician, teacher and athlete, Althea Gibson was the quintessential Renaissance woman who refused to compromise her dignity and the dignity of her people on or off the court.

Althea Gibson continued to be a woman of firsts in the years that followed her tennis career. During the same year as the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Althea Gibson became the first African American member of the Ladies Professional Golf Association. In

1971 Althea Gibson was the first African American to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame—the only African American woman of the 200 athletes who have received this honor in its 52 year history. Twenty years later, Althea Gibson became the first woman to receive the Theodore Roosevelt Award in 1991, the highest honor awarded by the National Collegiate Athletic Association for "symbolizing the best qualities of competitive excellence and good sportsmanship, and for her significant contribution to expanding opportunities for women and minorities through sports."

Madam Speaker, 4 years after her death, and 50 years after her win at the U.S. Championship and Wimbledon, Althea Gibson continues to be a universal example of strength and excellence. The Althea Gibson Foundation was established to support underprivileged youth in their drive to succeed in golf, tennis, and the classroom, and to ensure that Althea Gibson's legacy of excellence, tenacity, and dedication lives on. Her life affirms what many of us already know: Great athletes have the ability to unify and inspire beyond the realm of sports.

Althea Gibson famously said "In the field of sports you are more or less accepted for what you do rather than what you are." In a world plagued by poverty, segregation and racial prejudice, Althea Gibson saw sports as the epitome of what our country should be—a true meritocracy. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution to preserve the memory of Althea Gibson and other athletes who were pioneers in their time and inspirations for future generations.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2007*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, October 1, 2007.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 924 (Motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 185), "yea" on rollcall vote No. 925 (Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2276), and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 926 (Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3325).

#### FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 27, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3121) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program and to provide for such program to make available multiperil coverage for damage resulting from windstorms and floods, and for other purposes:

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, floods are amongst the most frequent and costly national